



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Road Home Program to Hold Outreach Events to Reach Grant Recipients

Staff members available to discuss compliance issues, possible benefits of new Action Plan Amendments

BATON ROUGE - The state Office of Community Development - Disaster Recovery Unit has scheduled nine outreach events in the month of September, where Road Home recipients can meet with staff members to answer their compliance issues, as well as to learn more about the recently approved Action Plan Amendments 58, 59 and 60 and their possible benefits to some program participants.

The Road Home program this week mailed letters to homeowners who are currently not in compliance with their Road Home grant agreement or covenant, letting them know that they have until Monday, Nov. 25 to submit compliance documentation to avoid facing repayment of funds.

"The first priority of the Road Home is to assist homeowners who are willing and able to return home," said Pat Forbes, executive director of the Louisiana Office of Community Development. "We also need to help communities fight blight in their neighborhoods, and we have a very real obligation to the U.S. taxpayers to ensure that these federal disaster recovery dollars are invested for their intended purpose."

Option 1 recipients within the Road Home program chose to take a grant to rebuild or repair their storm-damaged home and agreed to reoccupy that home. Option 2 recipients chose to sell their damaged home back to the state then purchase and occupy another home within Louisiana. Road Home grantees have three years from the time of their closing to comply with their covenant or grant agreement. As that three-year period reaches its end, homeowners are asked to report back to the program whether they have fulfilled their obligation. If they have, homeowners are considered in compliance and their grant is closed; if they have not, they are required to repay their grant amount to the state.

OCD-DRU suggests for homeowners who are compliant, but simply have not submitted the required paperwork, to complete

the compliance questionnaire that accompanies the letter and send it back to the Road Home to have their file closed out.

If the homeowner is not yet compliant, he or she should contact the Road Home at 1-888-762-3252, extension 2, to speak with a member of the Road Home staff about their case or to schedule an appointment at one of the planned outreach events.

Forbes noted, "Either by phone or in person, our staff can work with the homeowners to determine if they qualify for any of these additional tools and what their best path to compliance will be. The important thing is for the homeowner to touch base with the program staff."

Applicant files that are deemed non-compliant, including those that do not have the completed paperwork, by Monday, Nov. 25 will be put into grant recovery for collection of the Road Home grant funds.

The scheduled Outreach Events are listed below. Other events may be scheduled; check http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/cdbg/dr/RH_Outreach2013.htm or <http://www.road2lag.org> for updates.

Homeowners are strongly encouraged to call 1-888-762-3252, extension 2 to schedule an appointment at the outreach event they want to attend. Walk-ins will be accepted, but priority will be given to those with appointments. Homeowners can also visit, by appointment, the RH Lakeshore office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 2021 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, 70122.

Wednesday, Sept. 4

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

East Bank Regional Library (Jefferson Room)
4747 W. Napoleon Avenue
Metairie, La. 70001

Friday, Sept. 6

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

All Souls Episcopal Church & Community Center
5500 St. Claude Ave.
New Orleans, La. 70117

Saturday, Sept. 7

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training
13435 Granville Drive
New Orleans, La. 70129

Monday, Sept. 9

9 a.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Read Library (Jefferson Room)
5641 Read Blvd.
New Orleans, La. 70127

Tuesday, Sept. 10

4 - 8 p.m.

St. Bernard Memorial Gardens Funeral Home

701 W. Virtue Street

Chalmette, La. 70043

Wednesday, Sept. 11

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lower 9th Ward Village

1001 Charbonnet Street

New Orleans, La. 70117

Wednesday, Sept. 18

3:30 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Tammany Parish Library - Slidell Branch

555 Robert Road

Slidell, La. 70458

Friday, Sept. 20

5 - 9 p.m.

First Pilgrims Baptist Church

1228 Arts Street

New Orleans, La. 70117

Saturday, Sept. 28

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

7th Annual Housing and Home Improvement Fair

Dillard University Office

Professional Schools Building

2601 Gentilly Blvd.

New Orleans, La. 70122

The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's citizens recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. As the state's central point for hurricane recovery, the OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana recovers safer, stronger and smarter than before.

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